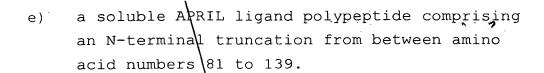
- 43. (New) A method for treating cancer comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a
  - a) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids;
  - b) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
  - c) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157 to 250 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;—and
  - d) an APRIL ligand selected from:
    - (i) SEQ ID NO:2; of

ligand selected from the group consisting of:

- (ii) an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 44. (New) A method for suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL ligand polypeptide, comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of a ligand selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids;
  - b) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
  - an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157 to 250 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
  - d) an APRIL ligand selected from:
    - (i) SEQ ID NO:2; or
    - (ii) an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID-NO:2; and

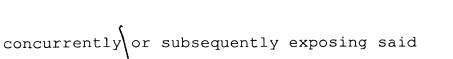
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- 45. (New) A method for suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL receptor polypeptide, comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of a ligand selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids;
  - b) an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
  - an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157 to 250 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;
  - d) an APRIL ligand selected from:
    - (i) SEQ ID NO:2; or
    - (ii) an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ
  - e) a soluble APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an N-terminal truncation from between amino acid numbers 81 to 139.
- 46. (New) A method for identifying an agent capable of suppressing the growth of a dell culture, comprising the steps of:
  - a) identifying a cell that proliferates in response to the binding of a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:2 to its cell surface receptor;
  - b) growing said cell in aid cell culture;
  - c) exposing said cell culture comprising said cell to a compound resulting in an exposed cell culture;

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- d) concurrently or subsequently exposing said exposed cell culture to a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof;
- e) comparing the proliferation of said cell within said exposed cell culture to the proliferation of a substantially identical cell in a second cell culture that was not exposed to said compound; and
- f) determining whether said compound has suppressed the growth of said cell in said exposed cell culture.
- 47. (New) The method of claim-46, wherein-said compound is an anolog of SEQ\_ID\_NO: 2.

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- 48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said compound is an antibody directed to the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof.
- 49. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said cell is a tumor cell.

## <u>REMARKS</u>

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's rejoining of Group V (claims 26 and 41 and 42 in part) with the elected Group IX for concurrent prosecution. In response, Applicant has added new claims 43-45 which are essentially the same as the claims of Group V as described by the Examiner in the March 13, 2001 Office Action. Specifically, claim 43 recites the subject matter of former claim 26 (now cancelled). Elements a)-d) of added claims 44 and 45 rejoin subject matter which was removed from claims 41 and 42 as a result of the March 13, 2001 Restriction Requirement. Element e) of claims 44 and 45 is directed